

Lesson  
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## Simple Predicates, or Verbs

## Teaching

The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or words in the complete predicate. In the following sentence, the simple predicate, or verb, is underlined.

Many unusual plants grow in the rain forest. (*grow in the rain forest* is the complete predicate)

VERB

The verb can be a single word as in the sentence above, or a **verb phrase**, as in the sentence below.

Exotic animals can be found there.

VERB PHRASE

**Verbs** are words used to express actions, conditions, or states of being. **Linking verbs** tell what the subject is. **Action verbs** tell what the subject does, even when the action cannot be seen.

## Identifying Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Underline the simple predicate, or verb, in each sentence.

1. Most of the rain forests grow near the equator.
2. The temperature in the rain forest remains hot all year long.
3. Rain falls nearly every day in some part of the forest.
4. Humid air makes the rain forest uncomfortable for most people.
5. More types of trees grow in the rain forest than anywhere else on earth.
6. Some trees reach 200 feet in height.
7. The trees block the sunlight from the floor of the forest.
8. People walk through the forest with little trouble.
9. Some rain forests contain a jungle.
10. A jungle forms in certain sunny areas of the forest.
11. Dense plant growth makes travel through the jungle difficult.
12. Rain forests harbor about half of all the species of plants in the world.
13. Flowering plants bloom all year long.
14. Air plants thrive on the branches of trees.
15. Ferns and orchids are two kinds of air plants.
16. Other plants twine around the branches and trunks of trees.
17. Many different kinds of birds and reptiles live in the forest.
18. Colorful parrots eat fruits and nuts from the trees.
19. Monkeys swing from tree to tree.
20. Lizards and snakes slither among the branches.

## Simple Predicates, or Verbs

### More Practice

#### A. Identifying Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Underline the simple predicate, or verb, in each of the following sentences.

1. The Amazon rain forest is the biggest in the world.
2. Other rain forests grow in Africa, Asia, and islands in the Pacific Ocean.
3. All rain forests stay green throughout the year.
4. Thundershowers soak the rain forest frequently.
5. The tops of the tallest trees form an upper canopy over the forest.
6. Slightly shorter trees make a lower canopy high above the forest floor.
7. Some animals live their entire lives between the upper and lower canopy.
8. They never descend to the ground.
9. Sloths feed on the abundant leaves in the canopy.
10. Anteaters and opossums hang by their tails from the tree branches.

#### B. Writing Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Choose one of the following simple predicates, or verbs, to complete each sentence below.

live	roam	fly	build	sip
hop	study	contain	eat	grow

1. Colorful toucans \_\_\_\_\_ from branch to branch in the rain forest.
2. Hummingbirds \_\_\_\_\_ nectar from the flowering trees.
3. Several kinds of frogs \_\_\_\_\_ from branch to branch.
4. Deer, hogs, and other animals \_\_\_\_\_ through the forest.
5. They \_\_\_\_\_ roots, seeds, leaves, and fruit.
6. Termites \_\_\_\_\_ huge colonies.
7. Different nuts and fruits \_\_\_\_\_ on the many trees.
8. Parts of some plants \_\_\_\_\_ special medicines.
9. Scientists \_\_\_\_\_ the many plants and animals in the rain forest.
10. A few native people \_\_\_\_\_ in small villages in the forest.

**Lesson  
3****Simple Predicates, or Verbs***Application***A. Writing Simple Predicates, or Verbs, in Sentences**

Use each of these words as the simple predicate, or verb, in a sentence.

1. spread \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. shelter \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. give \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. make \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. save \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Revising**

Read this paragraph carefully. In some sentences, the writer has left out the simple predicates, or verbs. When you find a sentence without a simple predicate, or verb, insert this proofreading symbol  $\wedge$  and write a verb in the space above it.

**EXAMPLE** Rain forests <sup>serve</sup>  $\wedge$  as a precious natural resource.

Rain forests places of great natural beauty. They contain more species of plants and animals than any other forests in the world. Many plants rare and valuable. Some animals in one particular rain forest and nowhere else. In the past, few people lived in the forest. Most visitors just to study the plants and animals. Today, more people want the products of the forest. They valuable trees, such as mahogany and rosewood. They capture some of the rare animals and reptiles. Others claim the land itself. They the rain forest for their farms and ranches. Miners for valuable minerals. Many people fear for the unique plants and animals of the rain forest.